

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, January 1, 1897.

*Hon. Chas. Maguire, Chairman, Frederick J. Mack, Thos. Morse,
Board of Public Safety, Indianapolis, Indiana :*

GENTLEMEN—I desire to submit for your information the sixth annual report of the Police Department.

The department at present consists of 136 officers and patrolmen, classified as follows :

POLICE FORCE CLASSIFIED.

Superintendent.....	1
Captains.....	2
Sergeants.....	8
Police surgeon.....	1
Police court bailiff.....	1
Humane officer.....	1
Turnkeys.....	2
Janitor.....	1
Patrol wagon drivers.....	2
Telephone operators.....	2
Matron.....	1
Board Children's Guardians' officer.....	1
Chief of detectives.....	1
Detectives.....	9
Patrolmen.....	103
Total.....	136

With this number of men police protection has to be given (as estimated) to one hundred and ninety thousand people, about one patrolman to every two thousand people; further argument than this I think unnecessary to show to your honorable board and the citizens of our city that the number of officers and patrolmen of this department should be increased. There should be one patrolman to every thousand of population.

The city is divided into twenty-six regular police districts, one patrolman day, two at night; seven special police districts. The special districts are patrolled by one patrolman. The special districts consist of street corner officers, Illinois street

tunnel officer, and an officer at Woodside, a portion of the city lying between the C., H. & D. and Big Four railroads, east of State street. With three or four exceptions the districts are large, necessarily made so on account of the small number of patrolmen in the department. The patrolmen's districts are subdivided into seven sergeant's divisions. Night time, one sergeant to each division.

- Division 1 consists of patrolmen's districts 23, 24, 25, 26.
- Division 2 consists of patrolmen's districts 20, 21, 22.
- Division 3 consists of patrolmen's districts 7, 8, 16, 17.
- Division 4 consists of patrolmen's districts 14, 15, 18, 19.
- Division 5 consists of patrolmen's districts 6, 9, 10.
- Division 6 consists of patrolmen's districts 5, 11, 12, 13.
- Division 7 consists of patrolmen's districts 1, 2, 3, 4.

In this connection I desire to say to your honorable board that in my judgment, with the exceptions noted above, the districts contain too much territory for one officer to patrol and patrol properly.

PATROL WAGON SERVICE.

The patrol wagon service attached to this department consists of one wagon and four horses. The horses are in good condition; the wagon is in fair condition, but requires constant repairs, for the reason that when built it was improperly constructed. This department should have two wagons. I respectfully recommend to your honorable board that an additional wagon be placed in service in this department.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The telephone service of this department is bad. The department has thirteen telephones in boxes located at the following points:

- Box No. 2—Corner Ninth street and Columbia avenue.
- Box No. 3—Senate Ave. and First street.
- Box No. 4—Shoemaker street and Michigan road, N. Indianapolis.
- Box No. 5—Fort Wayne and Christian avenues.
- Box No. 6—Washington and West streets.
- Box No. 7—Washington and Davidson streets.
- Box No. 8—Massachusetts avenue near Little Depot.
- Box No. 9—Elizabeth and Blake streets.
- Box No. 10—McCarty street, first alley west of Meridian.

- Box No. 11—McCarty and East streets.
- Box No. 12—Virginia avenue and Prospect street.
- Box No. 13—Yellow bridge and Indiana avenue.

These are the only telephones the department has. For all messages in or out of the Police Station, that do not come over the department wires, we have to depend on private telephone service. In most cases the use of the private telephone is readily granted by the owner, but in a great many instances objection is made to the officer by the subscribers of private telephones, they claiming that it collects undesirable crowds around their places when the wagon is called by the patrolman, or when other messages are sent to the Police Headquarters. I would respectfully recommend to your honorable board that this department be equipped with a modern police alarm and telephone system.

DISCIPLINE.

Strict compliance with the rules and regulations of the department is required of every member of the force. They are expected to be gentlemanly and courteous to all persons, neat and clean in their personal appearance, prompt in obeying and executing orders. I am satisfied, from my personal knowledge and frequent intercourse with the officers and patrolmen, that the standard of discipline is at the highest point possible to attain.

DETECTIVE DEPARTMENT.

In the past year this department has done excellent service, a great number of important arrests having been made by the different members. While crimes have been committed in the city during the past year, this department has been successful in most cases in arresting and convicting the guilty person or persons. The vigilance and energy shown by this department in pursuing criminals of all kinds have prevented the commission of a great number of acts of lawlessness which otherwise would have occurred.

ARRESTS.

The total number of arrests for 1896 was 5,980 against 6,040 in 1895. With the increased population over 1895, the

decrease in the number of arrests during 1896 speaks well for the peace and quiet of the city during the past year.

ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS.

During the past year every possible effort has been put forth to enforce all laws without fear or favor.

STATION-HOUSE.

The present Police Station is wholly inadequate to accommodate the business of this department. I respectfully recommend to your honorable board that there be a new Central Police Station built, and also two sub-stations at such points in the city as your honorable board think would satisfy the needs of the department.

STOLEN PROPERTY.

Stolen property was recovered and returned to the owners to the amount of \$21,158.94 against \$15,000.94 in 1895.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to return thanks to His Honor Mayor Thomas Taggart for kindness shown; also to the members of the Board of Public Safety, Hon. Chas. Maguire, Thomas Morse and Frederick J. Mack for their unanimous support and assistance; to Mr. Richard Herrick for courtesies shown; to John E. Engle for efficient service as clerk to the Superintendent of Police, and to all members of the department for their co-operation in the work of the department and for the courteous and gentlemanly manner in which they performed their different duties.

Respectfully,

THOMAS F. COLBERT,

Superintendent Police.